

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 13, 20, 22, 23, and 27 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 13, 20, 22, 23, and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13, 20, 22, 23, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,539,787 ("Murai et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Murai et al. do not render unpatentable the present claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 13 relates to a device that comprises a glow plug including a housing via which the glow plug is mounted inside a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, the glow plug further including at a first end a heating pin that projects at least partially into a combustion chamber of the internal combustion engine when the glow plug is installed, the heating pin being affixed inside the glow plug with the aid of a fixation member, and a sensor situated in the housing between the fixation member and a second end of the glow plug, the sensor disposed separately from the heating pin, in a force-locking manner between the fixation member and a fixation element implemented with prestressing, the fixation element being a sleeve crimped with the housing.

Murai et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the claimed features of claim 13. Specifically, Murai et al. do not disclose the feature of a *sensor situated in the housing*. For example, Murai et al. state in column 8, lines 51 to 52, that the "pressure sensor 300 is arranged ***outside of the housing***" (emphasis added).

Furthermore, claim 13 recites that the heating pin is ***affixed*** inside the glow plug ***with the aid*** of a fixation member. The Examiner, on page 4, equates the washer 207 of Murai et al. with the fixation member of the present claim. However, the washer 207 described by Murai et al. does not serve to aid in ***affixing*** the heating pin inside the glow plug. Rather, the washer 207 merely serves to ***center*** the central shaft 204 (Murai et al., column 4, lines 41 to 44). There is no mention by Murai et al. that the washer aids in ***affixing*** the heating pin inside the glow plug.

Additionally, the Examiner equates the dielectric bush of Murai et al. with the fixation element of the present claim and states that Murai et al. therefore disclose a sensor "***between*** the fixation member (207) and a fixation element

(209/209b)." (emphasis added). The Examiner does not cite any support for this

contention. In fact, Murai et al. clearly do not suggest this feature. Instead, Murai et al. describe that the dielectric bush 209 is located **inside** of the pressure sensor 300 (Murai et al., column 6, lines 54 to 57, *emphasis added*), and Figure 1 clearly shows that the sensor is **not** positioned **between** the fixation member and the fixation element, but rather is located between the large diameter section 209b of the dielectric bush 209 and the end surface of housing 201.

In addition, the Examiner asserts that the sensor of Murai et al. "is held in place by the prestressing created by the placement of the terminal nut 211", and therefore anticipates the feature that the sensor is implemented with **prestressing**. No indication has been provided by the Examiner as to where Murai et al. disclose this. In fact, Murai et al. make no mention whatsoever about **prestressing**, which in the context of the present claim, is implemented in order to counteract a hysteresis effect in the measured-value acquisition.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Murai et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features included in claim 13. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Murai et al. do not render unpatentable claim 13, or claims 20, 22, 23, and 27, which depend from claim 13.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. **Conclusion**

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 21, 2009

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